

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00222 011534Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2302

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

REF: THESSALONIKI' S 0218

1. IN FRONT-PAGED EDITORIAL UNDER TITLES

"POPULAR FRONT HAS CAPTUREDMANY MUNICIPALITIES"
AND "GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS TRIUMPHANT INTERPRETA-
TIONS OF OPPOSITION ENTIRELY UNJUSTIFIED", POLITI-
CAL ANALYST OF "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" APRIL 1
OBSERVES MANY GREEK MUNICIPALITIES
LAST SUNDAY ELECTED COMMUNIST AND PASOK
BACKED CANDIDATES, ALTHOUGH ALL OF LATTER MAY NOT BE
COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES.

2. "VORRAS" (CONSERVATIVE) ATTRIBUTES THIS TO
FACT THAT DUE TO GOVERNMENT' S POSITION OF NOT
POLITICIZING CAMPAIGNS, BULK OF NEW DEMOCRACY N AND
CENTER UNION FOLLOWERS VOTED WITHOUT
INSTRUCTIONS, SPLITTING NON-LEFTIST FORCES
INTO "SEVERAL PARALLEL COALITIONS", WHILE LEFTISTS
VOTED AS SOLID BLOC. GOVERNMENT NOW ATTAMPTING
EXPLAIN SITUATION AS OPPOSITION ENDEAVORS MAKE
POLITICAL CAPITAL FROM IMPRESSION CURRENT
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THAT "GROWING WAVE OF LEFT WING SWEEPING THE

COUNTRY", SAYS EDITORIAL.

3. TURNING TO LOCAL POLITICS, EDITORIAL
FORECASTS THAT ZANNAS WILL DEFEAT PAPADOPOULOS
NEXT SUNDAY, UNLESS CENTER UNION, IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN OPPOSITION FORCES, INSTRUCTS FOLLOWERS TO
VOTE FOR LATTER, IN WHICH CASE RACE WOULD BE CLOSE.
BRENNAN

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